

Cormorant

By Margaret Lanahan

From out the sea
Fled up the sandy coast,
Bleak desert stretch,
Half a land and half a sea alike,
Spreading gritty flecks
Built into rock, slab crag,
And summit peak of stone.
Here perched silently
The cormorant.

Lightening flick of eye betrayed him
Interested in sand and sea below,
Adamantly searching that domain,
Wherein the crab and oyster made a bed
And minnow fish cavorted in the shallows
Flitting out in happy quickness
From among pink coral walls.

High up the chill damp crag
Above the spreading slabs
Of lichenized stone,
Perched amid the barrenness of cliff
And shore below,
Keenly, quietly he waited—
A patient cormorant.

